

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KENYON R. PARTON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenyon R. Parton, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kenyon has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kenyon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kenyon R. Parton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. RADA MIHALCEA ON BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Rada Mihalcea. Dr. Mihalcea is an engineering researcher from the University of North Texas who will be honored by the White House on January 13, 2010, for her groundbreaking research on understanding the meaning of text and her exemplary commitment to education and community service.

Dr. Mihalcea serves as an Associate Professor for computer science and engineering at UNT, which is located in Denton, Texas. She is among 100 university researchers nationwide who will receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. This is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive in the United States.

Dr. Mihalcea's research focuses on finding a way to combine several different monolingual and multilingual lexical resources and integrating them into educational applications. Such applications could be useful in assisting Spanish-speaking individuals understand English texts by providing simpler synonyms or translations into English. This innovation is expected to make a huge impact on the local community and the Nation once successfully implemented.

Dr. Mihalcea will be the first professor from any university in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area to receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. She was nomi-

nated by the National Science Foundation, who also awarded her the CAREER Award in 2008 for her work.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and congratulate Dr. Rada Mihalcea, a recipient of a 2010 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, and thank her for her outstanding academic achievements and continuing dedication to the University of North Texas. It is an honor to represent Dr. Mihalcea and the University of North Texas in the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR HYLAND R. JOHNS

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Honorable Hyland R. Johns on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of faithful service to the borough of Bryn Athyn, a close-knit community northeast of Philadelphia. I am honored to represent Mayor Johns and the entire Bryn Athyn community in Congress.

Before being elected to Bryn Athyn borough council in 1971, Mr. Johns served both as a volunteer with the Bryn Athyn Fire Company and as borough zoning officer. He was elected to the borough council in 1971 and one year later became vice president. Mr. Johns held the position of vice president until 1975 when he became borough council president. His service as president lasted for nine years until he was elected mayor. During his tenure as mayor, the borough of Bryn Athyn prospered.

Bryn Athyn is home to the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, Cairnwood, and Glencairn Museum. Under Mr. Johns' leadership, the historic district of Bryn Athyn—which contains these local landmarks—was officially designated a National Historic Landmark. As Mayor, Mr. Johns served as a charming, enthusiastic, informed ambassador to neighboring residents, communities, businesses, organizations, and leaders in the region, sharing the unique significance of Bryn Athyn's architecture and religious heritage.

Before his career as a local official, Mr. Johns faithfully served his country during the Second World War in the Navy's Construction Battalion. Mr. Johns went on to earn a graduate degree in Urban Forestry from Michigan State University. He is an active member of his church, has served on the board of the Academy of the New Church, and serves on the board of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. Under Mayor Johns' leadership, the Academy of the New Church has continued to expand, with the Mitchell Performing Arts Center opening in 2002.

Madam Speaker, once again I applaud Mayor Johns for his dedication, service and accomplishments as an elected official for

nearly four decades. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him on the momentous occasion of his retirement from public office.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN LUTHER H. SMITH, JR., U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor today the memory of a great American hero, Captain Luther H. Smith, Jr., U.S. Army Air Forces, who will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, 15 January. Captain Smith was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a highly decorated World War II prisoner of war, a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the first African-American aerospace engineer hired by General Electric in its Missile and Space Operations in Philadelphia, a loving husband and father, and a longtime resident of Villanova, PA.

Captain Smith was born in Des Moines, Iowa on September 27, 1920. His early dreams to serve as a military aviator were fulfilled when he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces and began training at Alabama's Tuskegee Army Air Field and Tuskegee Institute. One of the first African Americans to become a licensed pilot, Captain Smith began his military career in 1943. He flew 133 combat missions with the 332nd Fighter Group as a combat fighter pilot over Europe. He was severely wounded on his last mission on Friday, 13 October 1944, and spent the next seven months in enemy hospitals and prison camps before being liberated in May 1945 by the Allied forces. During his distinguished military career, Captain Smith destroyed 2 German aircraft in aerial conflicts and 10 aircraft in ground strafing attacks. Captain Smith was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, and 8 European Theater Campaign Ribbons.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Air Forces, Captain Smith completed his engineering education at the University of Iowa, earning a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He was hired by General Electric where he was involved in projects for the Air Force, the Navy Submarine Command, and NASA. His work included missile and jet engine design and he published numerous papers and was awarded two patents.

Following his retirement from GE in 1988, Captain Smith was active in support of local civic causes, serving as the vice-chairman of the Radnor Township (PA) School Board and on the Board of the Delaware County (PA) Community College.

He also was instrumental in capturing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen—so that present and future generations of Americans

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